

Official's Comments on Status of Testimony in Chicago Prompt Shooting Match

By JOHN HENNER

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Jan. 19—A shouting match broke out today between the coroner's jury and the deputy coroner conducting an inquest into the death of two Black Panthers in a pre-dawn police raid Dec. 4.

The clash occurred as the 10th session of the inquest opened. The jurors presented a statement criticizing the special deputy coroner, Martin S. Gerber, for saying in a television interview over the weekend that testimony thus far did not indicate that the police had "murdered" the Panthers.

"We are the sole determiners of the evidence here," said Julian Wilkins, a Negro lawyer, who read the statement of the six jurors. "Statements made by the deputy coroner are improper, and such evaluative statements should not be made. We shall not judge this case until all the evidence is presented."

Mr. Gerber said that he felt the comments had been "fair" and that Panther charges against the police had "not been justified."

Right to Criticize

Philip Corboy, a white lawyer, who has been one of the most aggressive questioners on the jury, said over Mr. Gerber's objections that "we most certainly do have the right to criticize and will do so again if you make any further such statements."

Mr. Gerber began pounding his gavel, but Mr. Corboy kept shouting. "You will get more criticism if you refuse to keep silent and you make more statements," he said.

Meanwhile, an attorney for the Black Panthers who was jailed Friday on contempt charges turned in a missing door panel from the raided apartment.

The attorney, Francis Andrew, who was released over the weekend, had been imprisoned for his refusal to produce the door panel for the inquest and for a Cook County grand jury investigating attempted murder charges against seven Panthers who survived the

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1970

Jury and Coroner in Clash at Panther Inquest

raid.

Fred Hampton, the Illinois chairman of the Panthers, and Mark Clark, another Panther, were killed in the raid.

The panel is from the upper section of the entrance door to the apartment's living room. It contains a circular hole that the police say was made by a shotgun slug fired at them. The panel also contains a second, smaller hole with ragged

splinters on the inside of the door.

The police have testified at the inquest that no policeman fired through the door and that they saw only one hole in it.

The last two of 14 policemen involved in the raid completed their testimony today, including James Davis, a Negro patrolman.

The policeman, who is known on the force as "Duke" Davis, testified that he carried his own carbine on the raid and that he shot Mr. Clark with it as the youth was attempting to load a shotgun behind the living room door.

He testified that he believed three shots were fired as he pushed in the living room door and dove to the floor. One, he said, was fired by Mr. Clark and two by a girl who the police said was sitting on a bed

with a shotgun, patrolman Davis said he shot the girl in the leg.

He said he thought the slug that the police say went through the door was fired by Mr. Clark, and that his shotgun might have gone off as the door flew open.

The policeman walked to a swinging door at the side of the courtroom and demonstrated how he had lunged through the living room door, fired at the girl on the bed, rolled over and fired two shots at Mr. Clark.

James Montgomery, one of the lawyers representing the families of the dead Panthers, said today that he did not intend to call any witnesses before the inquest. Mr. Gerber, the deputy coroner, said that he thought the inquest would be ended by Wednesday.



Francis Andrew, the Panthers' attorney, with the door panel he turned in. It contains a hole that the police say was made by someone in the apartment firing at them.

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